(c) what strategy/action plan has been drawn by Government to popularise the available modern technology and equipment in the rural areas to prevent foodgrain losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Starvation Deaths in Tripura

156. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the starvation deaths in the Atharmura hills of Tripura recently;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are no reports of starvation deaths in the Atharmura hills of Tripura recently.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Dams in District Garhwal Region

157. SHRI KRISHAN KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of the projects for construction of dams proposed to be taken up by Government in Garhwal region;

(b) what is the present stage of these projects; and

(c) whether in view of the recent devastating earthquake in Tehri region Government propose to review these projects considering the high seismic risk in the Himalayan belt?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) The Government of Uttar Pradesh are investigating 7 new major and medium storage dams in the Garhwal Himalayan region. These projects are in the early stages of investigations only and detailed project reports are yet to be submitted by the State Government to the Central Government for techno-economic appraisal at which stage all relevant factors are considered.

गुजरात में अहमदाबाद और बड़ोदरा में टेलीफोन प्रणाली

158. **श्री राम सिंह राठवा**: क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गुजरात में अहमदाबाद और बड़ोदरा जिलों में टेलीफ़ोन सेवाएं खराब हैं ;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो वहां टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों में कितनी-कितनी क्षमता का प्रयोग किया जा रहा है ;

(ग) गत दो वर्षों के दौरान कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं ; और

(घ) सरकार द्वारा इन जिलों में टेलीफोन प्रणाली को सुचारु बनाने के लिए क्या प्रयास किये गये हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता । तथापि, एक्सचेंजों की क्षमता का इस्तेमाल अहमदाबाद में 93.69 प्रतिशत तथा बड़ोदरा में 88.47 प्रतिशत है ।

(ग) पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान प्रति 100 टेलीफोनों की प्रति माह प्राप्त हुई

शिकायतों की औसत संख्या निम्नानुसार है :—

वर्ष	अहमदाबाद	बड़ोदरा
1989—90	17.91	33.01
1990—91	20.86	33.69

(घ) इन दोनों क्षेत्रों में टेलीफ़ोन सेवाओं को लगातार मानीटर किया जाता है और अधिक सुधार करने की दृष्टि से निम्नलिखित उपाय किए गए हैं :—

(i) पुराने एक्सचेंजों को इलेक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंजों से बदलना ।

(ii) बासु संयंत्र का उन्नयन ।

(iii) पुराने उपकरणों को पुश बटन किस्म के उपकरणों में बदलना ।

Re-evaluation of importance of Open School Education System

159. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any exercise with a view to re-evaluate the importance of the open school education system is proposed to be undertaken to help students become more competitive and better-equipped to face the challenges of life;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) The National Open School has been established on 23rd November, 1989. The Open Schools of Andhra Pradesh and Punjab have been set up during the calendar year 1991. An overall evaluation of the functioning of the open school system in the country can be undertaken after the system continues for a few more years and is operationalised more extensively.

(c) Does not arise.

General pool Government accommodation in Delhi

160. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of Central Government employees have increase considerably as compared to the existing Government accommodation available in Delhi; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government propose to construct some more Governmen flats in and around Delhi to cater to the needs of Central Government employees; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE I THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVE LOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHA LAM): (a) Demand and availabilit of General Pool accommodation dur ing the past few years is given in th Statement attached. (*See* below).

(b) and (c) Construction of addi tional General Pool accommodation i taken up to the extent of budget pro vision made for the Miinstry.